



158th Executive Board

Constituency Statement:

Agenda Item 26. Economics of Health for All

Statement coordinated by:

- 1) NCD Alliance

Statement supported by:

- 2) Worldwide Hospice Palliative Care Alliance
- 3) World Stroke Organization
- 4) Alzheimer's Disease International
- 5) PATH
- 6) World Heart Federation
- 7) World Cancer Research Fund International
- 8) International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis (ISTH)
- 9) International Society for Biomedical Research on Alcohol (ISBRA)
- 10) International Alliance of Patients' Organizations (IAPO)
- 11) Union for International Cancer Control
- 12) International Diabetes Federation
- 13) Global Alliance for Tobacco Control
- 14) Humatem
- 15) Vital Strategies

Distinguished delegates,

We welcome WHO's strategy on the *Economics of Health for All*. The strategy rightly positions health as a foundational investment for social and economic development, challenging the persistent framing of health as a cost.

This is critical for noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), which drive catastrophic health spending and are projected to cost the global economy US\$47 trillion between 2010 and 2030, despite the availability of proven, cost-effective interventions for their prevention, treatment and care.

We commend its emphasis on policy coherence, good governance and accountability across sectors; its call for new multidimensional measures of development beyond GDP; and its recommendations for WHO.

However, it does not yet sufficiently address the influence of commercial determinants on policy. A clearer distinction between public and private economic interests is needed, alongside explicit safeguards to prevent undue influence and the externalisation of costs by health-harming industries.

We urge Member States to support the strategy and recommend refinements to:

- Position development of a health taxonomy beyond private investment to support coordinated action and resource alignment;
- Promote cross-sectoral budgeting that reflects health impacts and the economic value of prevention and early management;
- Strengthen fiscal policy coherence, including through subsidy reforms;
- Elaborate on trade and health, recognising risks of poorly designed trade liberalisation and differing health system capacities;
- Utilise market dynamics for health products and related services, emphasising fair, transparent pricing, and tools such as pooled procurement;
- Reference WHO's NCD Best Buys as priority investments;
- Explicitly recognise the needs of Small Island Developing States; and
- Clarify alignment with other major global health and development agendas.

Thank you.